



Legislation

What passed and where do we go from here?

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Agenda

2023 Session

Stories of legislative successes

Future legislative ideas

How to get involved

Tips

2023 Legislative Session

The 2023 Legislative Session was one of the most successful sessions for the disability industry, but there is still more work to do.



What passed in 2023

CDCS

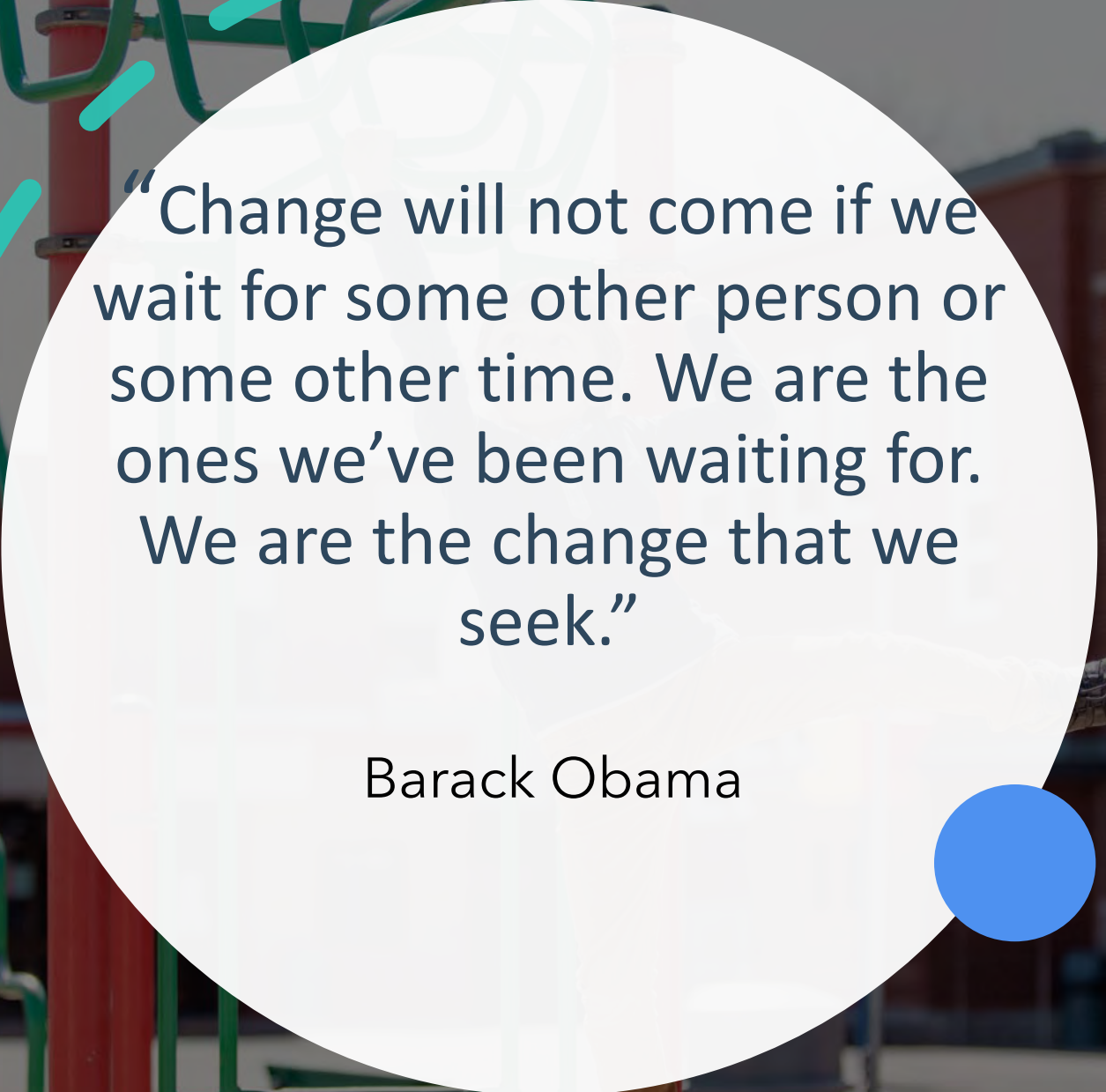
- 8.49% increase on 1/1/24, 4.53% on 1/1/25.
- Union min. wage increases to \$19 on 1/1/24 and \$20 on 1/1/25.
- Floating holidays eliminated, added Independence Day and Veteran's Day in 2023, add Juneteenth in 2024.
- Increase in household cap for paid parents of minors and spouses.

Disability

- TEFRA fees eliminated, 7/1/23. (Back payments still required to be paid.)
- Family Deductible eliminated 1/1/24.

Employment

- Paid Earned Sick and Safe Time for all employers 1/1/24.
- Paid Family Medical Leave required for all employers 1/1/26. Increase in employer tax rate of approx. .7%.



“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

Barack Obama

2024 Legislative Session

Logistics

- Session starts on 2/12/24.
- Not a budget year, November forecast will let us know if there is a state surplus.
- Get to know your legislator “Who Represents Me, MN”.

Groups that support families

- Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCDD)
 - Forming a Children’s workgroup.
 - Hosts Disability Days at the Capitol.
- Arc Minnesota
- Partners in Policy Making
- LSS - Legislative Advocacy 101

Legislative Proposals

- Examples of Legislation that passed
 - Lifting the 40-hour household cap
 - Autism Spectrum - Mental Health - Emergency/Caregiver Contact Form
- What are your ideas?



Tips for scheduling a meeting

1

When contacting the legislator's office be flexible on the date and time to meet, have several options. When not in session, legislators may want to meet in the community.

2

Be prepared to provide the number of people who will attend and a short summary of the purpose.

3

Be prepared to be as flexible as possible. The typical meeting is scheduled for 15 or 30 minutes. It is not unusual for the legislator's schedule to change unexpectedly.

4

If the legislator is not available at the appointment time, take advantage of the opportunity to develop a relationship with their staff.

5

Be prepared for the meeting, if possible, bring a one-page description of the issue or a story that highlights what you are asking.

Know the Political Party

The conversation

- Be aware of potential conflicts of interest

Biases

- Be aware of your own biases and assumptions. We all have them, check them at the door when trying to communicate with people who have different views.

Key phrases

- Uses phrases that resonate with the person/party: e.g., accountability, personal choice, flexibility, transparency, etc.



Steps to an effective meeting

1. Identify your main message
2. Determine the roles of participants
3. Prepare and practice
4. Introduce yourself
5. Take the initiative
6. Make a local connection

After meeting checklist

1

Write a thank you note

2

Provide an update to your organization or others working on the issue

3

Share your experience through social media, include photos

4

Build on the relationship



Testifying at Committee

1. Use the MN legislative website to track your bill(s)
2. Sign up to testify
3. Prepare and practice
4. Tell your story
5. Follow up



Thank you

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